

RENOVATIONS AT JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT #3/17 LOCATION PROMPT SHIFT IN OPERATIONS

Today the Justice of the Peace Court announced that major renovations to the Court #3/17 building on Shortly Road in Georgetown will begin the first week of February. Due to this work, beginning on January 28, 2008 Justice of the Peace Court #17 operations will be moving temporarily to JP Court #19 in Seaford, which is located at 408 Stein Hwy, Seaford, DE 19973. The current Court #17 mailing address, telephone number and fax number will be retained during the relocation.

Courts #17 and #19 will only be able to accept filings and provide hand written receipts on the day of the move, due to the transition of office equipment. Combined daily operations will begin at the Seaford location only on Tuesday, January 29th. All trials for Justice of the Peace Court # 17 will be heard at Justice of the Peace Court #19 beginning February 4, 2008. No civil filings will be accepted at the Georgetown location while the building is under construction.

Justice of the Peace Court #3 will continue to operate as a 24-hour court in the existing building during the course of the construction. Construction phasing calls for that location's operations to move from one end of the building to the other to allow for renovation to take place in the space it currently occupies. No significant changes in operations are expected during that transition.

Regarding the move and the construction, Chief Magistrate Alan G. Davis said, "We realize that this move is going to cause some level of inconvenience for our court users and hope that they will bear with us as we make improvements that will ultimately make the Court #3/17 location more efficient, safer, and just generally a nicer place to transact court business in the future."

The renovation of the Georgetown location will include the construction of an extra courtroom, security improvements, rehabilitation of public and clerical areas and consolidation of constable offices. Additions to the building will house an extension of clerical space, a jury room, and needed storage. The parking lot will also see a modest expansion.

Chief Magistrate Davis added that some steps will be taken to ease the burden on regular filers at the Georgetown civil court location. "We currently are in the midst of a pilot electronic filing program at Courts #17 and #19. During the course of the construction project, we will be offering the e-filing alternative to higher volume filers, so they can avoid the additional time and expense of traveling to Seaford." Training for e-filing will take place shortly.

Renovations are expected to take approximately 9 months, at which time Court #17 will return to its Georgetown location.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE

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